REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. The Office Action dated November 4, 2004 has been carefully considered. The above amendments and the following remarks are presented in a sincere attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, and 17 have been amended in this Response. Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 13-20 have been determined by the Examiner to be in condition for the allowance for which Applicant thanks the Examiner. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claim 12 stand objected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being a duplicate of Claim 2. Insofar as it may be applied against the Claim, this rejection is overcome because the dependency of Claim 12 has been changed from Claim 1 to Claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn and that Claim 12 be allowed.

Claim 1 is objected to as containing an informality, in that the second Write_enable signal determines whether the second storage component keeps its current data and valid bit or latches in new data and a new valid bit in the first storage component. Claim 1 has been amended to correct this informality. Applicants contend that the rationale underlying this amendment bears no more than a tangential relation to any equivalence in question because "first storage component" has been changed to --second storage component--. *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, 122 S.Ct. 1831 (2002).

Claim 17 is objected to as containing an informality. Accordingly, "storing one or more bits" has been replaced with --storing one or more data bits--. Applicants contend that the rationale underlying this amendment bears no more than a tangential relation to any equivalence in question because "data" has been inserted for the purpose of clarity. *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, 122 S.Ct. 1831 (2002).

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as assertedly being indefinite. Insofar as it may be applied against the Claim, this rejection is overcome. Specifically, Claim 6 has been amended to read that the fourth multiplexer is "controlled by a second *control* signal from the second domain, wherein the second *control* signal *selects between* the first storage component valid bit or a new valid bit." (Emphasis added.) Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as assertedly being indefinite be withdrawn and that Claim 6 be allowed.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as assertedly being indefinite. Insofar as it may be applied against the Claim, this rejection is overcome because the dependency of Claim 11 has been changed from Claim 1 to Claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as assertedly being indefinite be withdrawn and that Claim 11 be allowed.
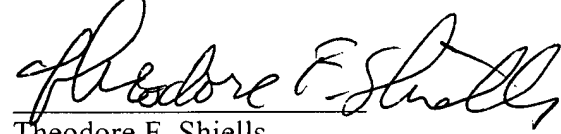
Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1-20.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due; however, in the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees due (other than issue fees), and to credit any overpayment made, in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-0605 of CARR LLP.

Should the Examiner require any further clarification to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CARR LLP

Dated: _Feb 4, 2005_

CARR LLP
670 Founder's Square
900 Jackson Street
Dallas, Texas 75202
Telephone: (214) 760-3030
Fax: (214) 760-3003

Theodore F. Shiells
Reg. No. 31,569